CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

People migrate overseas in search of a better life, yet migration is a very complex topic. Individuals relocate for a number of continuously shifting causes. Additionally, migrants can be difficult to characterize since they emerge under a range of conditions, from a variety of environments, and with a diversity of distinctive traits. Citizens in the majority of the host nations show prejudice and intolerance towards migrants on the premise that they will cause greater competitiveness for commodities. Frequent verbal assaults against immigrants or even physical attacks on outsiders result from intolerance. Immigrants who migrate in search of better opportunities and are willing to accept lower pay for their services and labor typically create a problem for the people of the region, who then lose their jobs as a result. This typically brings about resentment between natives and immigrants, which can lead to acts of xenophobia as a way for natives to vent their anger at immigrants.

The term xenophobia refers to express hate of outsiders and foreigners. This presents itself in a number of ways, including interpersonal interactions and viewpoints. It is obvious that xenophobia arises from a feeling of uneasiness when one believes that immigrants have intruded on their homeland (Ogunnowo, Joshua, 2019). The rise of xenophobia and intolerance in today's world provides a severe obstacle for governments and policymakers. There is no question that xenophobia

significantly weakens and damages the potentially positive connection between global migration and human growth. It is one of the main barriers to maximizing the positive effects of international migration on the economy and society, having an impact on both migratory and host populations in a number of negative ways. Increased xenophobia toward immigrants and refugees directly contributes to their vulnerability and exploitation, which in turn causes severe long-term disparities between migrant and non-migrant populations. In a larger sense, xenophobia threatens the ideals of social cohesiveness, social fairness, and human equality.

Netflix is a subscription-based digital streaming service that enables subscribers to watch TV episodes, films, and other material on any internet-connected device without being interrupted by advertisements. Currently, "Squid Game," a new Netflix series, is being watched by millions of people worldwide. A nine-episode South Korean thriller series called Squid Game. The show stands out because it follows a group of adult debtors throughout its plot. For the chance of succeeding in this tournament, they competed for tens of billions of Won (South Korea's national currency), which is equivalent to hundreds of billions of rupiah. The organizers, who are presented in the storyline as mysterious figures, have set up objectives for players to complete in the style of kid-friendly children games.

Ali and Saebyeok are the players who got mistreatment in the series received a foreign treatment in a foreign country which was shown in a scene when a native degraded Ali that he came in to the country illegally without using passport which happened during episode 4 of Squid Game series. Minyeo said *"hey, which country are you from? I bet you don't have visa, do you? You're an illegal alien, right? Hey look here you guys… Why keep the strange foreigner when we could just*

ditch him?? Is it okay to make the team that way? Huh? Guess I'd better do some major restructuring team while I'm here." which indicates violence verbally. The bullying that seems happened a lot in the South Korea being put in the scene as if it has been normalized. The foreigner is used as the scapegoat to create this relationship. There is no other reason for Minyeo to state the harsh statements out of the blue other than the xenophobia that she has in mind. According to Tshitereke (1999), relative deprivation, xenophobia, and collective violence all have a causal relationship. He supports this claim with psychological theories of aggressiveness and frustration. People probably address this issue as racism as it is a more known vocabulary than a term xenophobia.

In another episode, especially in episode 6, minute of 18:23 – 18:37, a person named Jiyoung attacked Saebyeok's visual and stated *"wow you are so cold, as cold as ice. So, are you a spy from North or what?"*. North Korea has been consecutively sent their spies to South Korea. Thus, the title given by Jiyeon to Saebyeok. No definitive account of the number of North Korean agents in South Korea was found, though there are thought to be many. The South Korean intelligence agency gave an estimate of 40,000 in the early 1990s (Bang, 2006). Morris (1998) added, they are generally immediately identifiable by their physical characteristics, behavior, dress style, and lack of ability to speak one of the indigenous languages, making it simple for natives to identify and attack them. Saebyeok has been very distant and cold towards other players that they misidentify them as a spy from the north.

Despite being two distinct problems, racism, and xenophobia commonly overlap. While xenophobia relates to actions that center around the notion that another individual is alien or someone who comes from outside the group or nation, racism refers to prejudice based on physical characteristics such as skin color, hair type, facial features, and so forth. Xenophobia is described as a strong dislike or anxiety regarding foreigners or individuals from different countries (Castles, 2003). Sociologist Hervik (2015) defined xenophobia as an ideological tendency of rivalry against immigrants in a particular society. The concept of studying xenophobia is an intriguing one because of how closely the definitions resemble one another. This will help people learn more about how xenophobic acts occur. Many previous studies about xenophobia have been around but most of them are limited to south African study only. This research will analyze about the xenophobia act towards character Ali in Squid Game series.

In the previous research, it was found that the study has explored the discourse strategies employed by state actors in relation to the xenophobic attack against foreigners in South Africa. The study relies upon the idea that, at this point in history as a whole, a situation like the recent xenophobic incident in South Africa will have an impact on intercontinental collaboration between the two economic superpowers of Africa. It is also anticipated that the occasion would give government officials representing the nations a forum to express their viewpoints (Fafiyebi, 2020). On the other hand, other research showed that xenophobic attitudes in Nigeria are distinct from what is experienced in South Africa. In Nigeria, the occurrence had been controlled by states at both times, in 1983 and 1985, under an "immigration order," whereas in South Africa, the circumstance is frequently

citizen-driven involving overt displays of aggressiveness. The driving force for both, efforts to lessen rivalry against natives for socioeconomic advantages, is comparable (Oni, Okunade, 2018). The violent history of the South African people might have been to blame for the xenophobic attacks on foreign immigrants. Their demonstration of rage and dumb killing of their fellow Africans are due to the treatment they received from oppressive opponents, while statements from outside Nigeria appear to be unconcerned or show open dissatisfaction with the acts of violence (Abioye, Idoko, 2021). Most of the previous studies were found in South Africa, but this study will focus on the xenophobia towards Ali that he experienced in South Korea, though it is taken from a movie, which makes this research different from others. The truth of the country's perception of immigrants from underdeveloped countries, particularly in South Korea, is reflected in it. It is widely acknowledged that South Koreans have ubiquitous xenophobia and prejudice toward immigrants. Because it is based on a well-known series, it may yield fresh perspectives, such as the sorts of xenophobic statements that happen in South Korea specifically and that are going to be employed in this study.

1.2 Problems of Study

Based on the background above, the problems are formulated as the following:

1. What types of xenophobia experienced in Squid Game series?

2. How are the xenophobia realized in Squid Game series?

3. Why are the xenophobia realized as the ways they are?

1.3 The Objectives of Study

In relation to the problems of study, the objectives of the study are:

1. To define what types of xenophobia experienced in the Squid Game series

2. To analyze the xenophobia that is realized in the Squid Game series

3. To elaborate the reasons of the occurrences of xenophobia in the Squid Game series

1.4 The Scope of Study

The scope of the study is limited to the type of xenophobia proposed by Harris (2000), which identified three hypotheses that surround xenophobia. He identified the scapegoating hypothesis, the isolation hypothesis, and the bio-cultural hypothesis, which connect to some immigrants' experiences in the Squid Game series. Based on Van Dijk's (2009) triangulation of the relationship underlying cognition, discourse, and society, this applies to the ways in which xenophobia occurs in society. This triangulation highlights how social inequality, domination, and ideologies present themselves, as well as the cognitive mechanisms linked to discourse structure. To determine the social representations, attitudes, and ideologies of social actors, it is necessary to take into account the relationship between the discourse structure and the societal structure. The utterances of xenophobia will be taken from Squid Game series season 1 from the 1st until the 6th episode.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study have both theoretical and practical implications. The major contributions can help to further research on the evolution of language analysis, specifically discourse analysis. The findings have the potential to provide beneficial recommendations for the theoretical as well as the practical aspects.

Theoretically, because the discovery is also associated with discourse, it will assist in widening the scope of the CDA technique. The findings will function as the basis for future research into the social context and purpose of language, as well as have important implications for practical linguistics, especially in the English language. They may be employed as well as a foundation for further studies with a similar scope or objective. The insights, in particular, have the possibility to broaden the scope of language theories.

Practically, the findings can be used as a reference for migrants who are interested in working in the country mentioned in this paper to prevent or prepare for xenophobia which could occur in the future, as well as obtaining additional understanding about the state of affairs in the nation.